

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
CHRISTIAN PATTERSON

Plaintiff

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
DETECTIVE JOHN FAHIM  
CAPTAIN WILLIAM RUSSO, DETECTIVE  
JONMICHAEL RAGGI, Sh. # 25725, DETECTIVE  
MICHAEL ZAK, Sh. # 05972, DETECTIVE ANTHONY  
RICCI, Sh. # 03652, SGT. IGNAZIO CONCA, Sh. # 906  
DETECTIVE CHRIS BRUNO, Sh. # 3374, DETECTIVE  
MATTHIEW EDELMAN, Sh. # 1856, P.O. STEVEN  
SPINELLI, Sh. # 18321, ROBERT WOODHOUSE  
and POLICE OFFICER JOHN DOE 1-5

Defendants  
-----X

SECOND AMENDED  
COMPLAINT  
PLAINTIFFS DEMAND  
TRIAL BY JURY

14-cv-5330

MICHAEL COLIHAN- ATTORNEY AT LAW

44 Court Street  
Suite 906  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

---

Phone (718) 488-7788

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
CHRISTIAN PATTERSON

Plaintiff

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
DETECTIVE JOHN FAHIM  
CAPTAIN WILLIAM RUSSO, DETECTIVE  
JONMICHAEL RAGGI, Sh. # 25725, DETECTIVE  
MICHAEL ZAK, Sh. # 05972, DETECTIVE ANTHONY  
RICCI, Sh. # 03652, SGT. IGNAZIO CONCA, Sh. # 906  
DETECTIVE CHRIS BRUNO, Sh. # 3374, DETECTIVE  
MATTHIEW EDELMAN, Sh. # 1856, P.O. STEVEN  
SPINELLI, Sh. # 18321 , ROBERT WOODHOUSE  
and POLICE OFFICER JOHN DOE 1-5

SECOND AMENDED  
COMPLAINT  
PLAINTIFFS DEMAND  
TRIAL BY JURY

14-cv-5330

Defendants  
-----X

Plaintiff, CHRISTIAN PATTERSON, by his attorney, Michael Colihan, as and for his complaint in this action against the defendants, above named, respectfully sets forth and alleges as follows:

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

1. This is a civil action for damages brought to redress the deprivation by defendants of the rights secured to plaintiff under the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of New York. The defendants, upon information & belief, without a warrant and without probable cause, unlawfully assaulted the plaintiff in Richmond County without just cause. The plaintiff suffered serious and severe psychological & physical injuries, the full nature and extent of which have yet to be determined. By the filing of this complaint, the plaintiff now alleges that the City of New York & the New York City Police Department violated his rights

under 42 USC Section 1983 and 1988, the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution and New York State law. In addition, the plaintiff invokes the pendant jurisdiction of this court to assert claims arising under state law. The plaintiff alleges that the incidents that are the subject of their complaint are part of a pattern of assaults and civil rights violations against persons of color, as well as others, by members of The New York City Police Department in Richmond County and elsewhere. The motivation for these unlawful arrests is overtime compensation for the arresting officers and the statistical needs of the NYPD. The City has displayed a deliberate indifference to this unlawful and perjurious activity by its employees.

### **JURISDICTION**

2. That the jurisdiction of this Court is invoked under the provisions of Section 1331 & 1343 of Title 28 and Sections 1983 & 1988 of Title 42 of the United States Code, as well as the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Plaintiff further invokes the supplemental jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to 28 USC Section 1367 to hear and decide his New York State Law claims of false arrest, false imprisonment and the intentional and negligent infliction of mental & emotional distress against the individual defendant police officers. These state law claims form part of the same case and controversy as plaintiff's federal claims under Article III of the United States Constitution.

3. Because plaintiff's state law claims are brought only against the individual defendant police officers and allege intentional conduct, no notice of claim is required. In suits against municipal or county employees, as opposed to suit against municipalities themselves, "service of the notice of claim upon the public corporation shall be required only if the corporation has a statutory obligation to indemnify such person under this chapter or any other provision of law"

N.Y. Gen. Mun. Law Section 50- e (1) n(b).

4. Venue is properly laid in the Southern District of New York in that this is the District where the claim arose, especially with respect to the managers of the City of New York and The New York City Police Department who allow the unlawful acts complained of to continue.

### **JURY DEMAND**

5. Plaintiff respectfully demands a trial by jury of all issues in this matter pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38 (b)

### **PARTIES**

6. The plaintiff CHRISTIAN PATTERSON is a resident of the City and State of New York in Richmond County.

7 The defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK was and is a municipal corporation organized and existing under the laws of the City and State of New York.

8. The defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK maintains, operates, manages and controls the New York City Police Department ( hereinafter referred to as “NYPD”) a duly authorized police department authorized, organized and existing to perform and carry out all functions of a police department as per the applicable laws, rules, statues and ordinances of the aforementioned municipal corporation THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

9. That the defendant DETECTIVE JOHN FAHIM was and is an agent, servant and

employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK

10. That the defendant CAPTAIN WILLIAM RUSSO was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

11. That the defendant DETECTIVE JONMICHAEL RAGGI, sh. # 25725 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK

12. That the defendant DETECTIVE MICHAEL ZAK, Sh. # 05972 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK

13. That the defendant DETECTIVE ANTHONY RICCI, Sh. # 03652 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

14. That the defendant SGT. IGNAZIO CONCA, Sh. # 906 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK. .

15. That the defendant DETECTIVE CHRIS BRUNO, Sh. #3374 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

16. That the defendant DETECTIVE ROBERT WOODHOUSE, Sh. #25142 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

17. That the defendant DETECTIVE MATTHIEW EDELMAN, Sh. # 1856 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

18. That the defendant POLICE OFFICER STEVEN SPINELLI , Sh. # 18321 was and is an agent, servant and employee of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK .

19. That the defendants POLICE OFFICERS JOHN DOE 1-10 were and are agents, servants & employees of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

#### **STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS**

20. That on or about the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014, between the hours of about 1:00pm & 3:00pm the plaintiff was in his home at 19 Wood Court, Staten Island, New York in the County of Richmond.

21. That while at the aforesaid time and place the defendants broke down the door of the plaintiff's home, grabbed him, and threw him violently to the floor despite the fact he was unarmed and offered no resistance.

22. The plaintiff was made to lie on the floor on his stomach and handcuffed. When he asked the defendants to see a search warrant, he was told to "shut the fuck up" and the defendant placed his knee on the defendants' hand which was handcuffed behind him and placed the full weight of his body on the plaintiff, causing severe injuries including, but not limited to his hand and ribs.

23. The aforementioned unlawful and brutal assault was committed by officers of THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT who were agents, servants and employees of the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK who were acting under color of law during the aforesaid transactions .

24. .All of the foregoing took place as a direct and foreseeable result of the unconstitutional policies, customs and practices of the City of New York and the NYPD, including, without limitation, the falsification of evidence, and other things to justify injury to civilians.

25. The event complained of is not an isolated incident. Defendant CITY OF NEW YORK, and its agents, servants and employees, especially its counsel, managers and supervisors are all aware, from lawsuits brought in New York State Supreme Court and the Federal District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, which are matters of public record, notices of claim, complaints filed with the NYPD's Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) and the CITY OF NEW YORK'S Civilian Complaint Review Board or "CCRB" that many officers of the NYPD, including the defendants, are not sufficiently trained regarding the law of arrest, the definition of probable cause, and are engaging in a pattern of falsification to conceal their abuse of authority and for other unlawful motives.

26.. Defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK is further aware that such improper training has often resulted in a violation of people's civil rights. Despite such notice, defendant CITY OF NEW YORK has failed to take corrective action. This failure to act was a direct result of the acts complained of.

27. Further, upon information and belief, defendant CITY OF NEW YORK was aware, prior to the incident that is the subject of this complaint, that the individual defendants lacked the temperament, objectivity, maturity, discretion and proper disposition to function lawfully as police officers. Despite such notice, the defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK has retained such officers, and failed to adequately train and supervise them.

28. By reason of the foregoing, plaintiff sustained injury and damage as described above.

**AS AND FOR A FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF**

**CHRISTIAN PATTERSON**  
**Deprivation of Rights under 42 U.S.C. Section 1981 & 1983**

29. The plaintiff repeats the foregoing allegations

30. Each, every and all of the aforementioned acts of defendants, their agents, servants and employees were performed and carried out under color of law.

31. All of the above described acts deprived plaintiff CHRISTIAN PATTERSON of the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to United States citizens by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and in violation of 42 U.S.C. Section 1983.

32. The acts which are the subject of this complaint were carried out by the aforementioned individually named defendants, including but not limited to JOHN FAHIM in their capacities as officers of the NYPD, with the entire actual and or apparent authority attendant thereto, and with the intent to discriminate on the basis of race.

33. The acts which are the subject of this complaint were performed by the individually named defendants in their capacities as officers of the NYPD, pursuant to the customs, practices, usages, procedures and rules of the CITY OF NEW YORK and the NYPD, all under the supervision of ranking officers of said department.

34. Defendants, collectively and individually, while acting under color of state law, engaged in conduct and actions that constituted a usage, custom, practice, procedure or rule of the respective municipal authority and defendant, THE CITY OF NEW YORK, which is forbidden by the United States Constitution.



35. By reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff CHRISTIAN PATTERSON is entitled to compensatory damages in a sum to be decided by a jury, and is further entitled to punitive damages against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined by a jury, and, in addition, reasonable attorney's fees, costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS AND FOR A SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

Failure to Intervene under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983

36..The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

37. The individual defendants had an affirmative duty and obligation to intervene on behalf of the plaintiff whose constitutional rights were being violated in their presence and with their knowledge.

38. The defendants did not intervene to prevent or terminate the unlawful conduct described herein.

39. .By reason of the foregoing the plaintiff was physically injured, he was put in fear of his safety, and he was humiliated and subjected to handcuffing and other physical restraints.

40.. By reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff CHRISTIAN PATTERSON is entitled to compensatory damages in a sum to be decided by a jury, and is further entitled to punitive damages against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined by a jury, and, in addition, reasonable attorney's fees, costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS AND FOR A SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

Supervisory Liability under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983

41. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein

42. The supervisory defendants personally caused plaintiff's constitutional injury by being deliberately and/or consciously indifferent to the rights of citizens in failing to properly train, select, supervise and discipline their employees

. 43. By reason of the foregoing, the plaintiff CHRISTIAN PATTERSON is entitled to compensatory damages in a sum to be decided by a jury, and is further entitled to punitive

damages against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined by a jury, and, in addition, reasonable attorney's fees, costs and disbursements of this action.

**AS AND FOR AN EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
Municipal Liability under 42 U.S.C. Section 1983  
MONELL VIOLATION

44. The plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

45. Defendants, individually and collectively, while acting under color of state law, engaged in conduct that constituted a procedure, custom, usage, practice, rule and/or regulation of the municipal authority THE CITY OF NEW YORK which violates the Constitution of the United States.

46. The aforementioned procedures, customs, usage, practices, rules and/or regulations of the NYPD includes, but is not limited to subjecting citizens to excessive force, arresting people without probable cause and engaging in a practice of falsification to conceal their abuse of authority. The wrongful acts include perjury and or lying under oath, known in the NYPD as "testilying", the planting of, and or perjurious statements with regard to controlled substances, known in the NYPD as "flaking" and the making of false arrests to obtain overtime compensation, known in the NYPD as "collars for dollars"

47. In addition, the NYPD engaged in a practice policy or custom of inadequate screening, hiring, investigation, retaining, training and supervision of its employees that was the moving force behind the violation of the plaintiff's rights as described in this complaint. By reason of the failure of the CITY OF NEW YORK to properly recruit, screen, train discipline and supervise its officers, including the individual defendants, In addition, despite receiving countless notices of claim and complaints of the Supreme Court of the State of New York as well as the United States District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York,

and the names and docket numbers of some of these are set forth below, the defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK has tacitly ratified and authorized the conduct complained of, and has displayed deliberate indifference to the acts and conduct complained of herein.

48. That the City of New York, through a policy, practice or custom, directly caused the constitutional violations suffered by the plaintiff.

49. The foregoing customs, policies usages, practices, procedures and rules of the defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK constituted deliberate indifference to the safety, well being and constitutional rights of the plaintiff. .

50..A number of members of the New York City Police Department have been convicted of crimes involving corruption, perjury, making false allegations against civilians and other criminal activity.

51. In the year 2011, former Brooklyn South Narcotics Division officer Jerry Bowen was convicted of homicide and attempted murder while he was under indictment for other crimes.

52.. Former NYPD Commissioner Bernard Kerik was convicted of corruption related crimes in connection with his employment with the NYPD and served time in federal prison.

53. In *Colon v the City of New York*, Nos. 09 cv 8, 09 cv 9 (JBW) 2009WL 4263362 (EDNY November 25, 2009), the federal court stated that an “ informal inquiry by this court and among the judges of this court, as well as knowledge of cases in other federal & state courts has revealed anecdotal evidence of repeated, widespread falsification by arresting officers of the NYPD.

54. Particularly in Richmond County, that has been a pattern of abuse and false arrest by officers of the NYPD as evidenced by numerous lawsuits by persons of color, mostly for drug related offenses. The actions include the following brought in the US District Court for the Eastern & Southern Districts of New York *Bey v NYC*, et al 09-03595, *Strong v NYC* et al, 10-01602, *Brown v NYC* et al 11-02277, *Stephens v NYC* et al 11-05281, *Rhone v the City of New York*, 12-cv-00747 *Goodwin v the City of New York*, 04-01482. *Weston v the City of New York*, 06-1513; In this case the plaintiff was a 52 year old college graduate with no criminal record who had suffered from a stroke shortly before the incident. The plaintiff, who was employed at Wagner High School as a teacher's assistant, also had to fight eviction proceedings because he lived in an apartment owned by the New York City Housing Authority. *Nielson v the City of New York*, *Patterson v NYC* et al 10-cv-00231 *Lawrence v The City of New York*, 11-05066. *Archipoli v the City of New York*, 10-1986, where there were several plaintiffs, including a 17 year old boy, and 39 year old William Archipoli who was confined to a wheelchair at the time as he suffers from muscular dystrophy. The plaintiffs were in their own home on Staten Island when P.O. Orsini and others entered 219 Jefferson Street. The officers drew guns on all, including the wheelchair bound plaintiff. Criminal charges were filed and later dismissed in Richmond County Criminal Court.; *Coleman v the City of New York* 11-2574, *Rosenblum v the City of New York*, 07 cv- 02158. *Thompson v the City of New York*, *Ohagan v the City of New York* 09-05597 *Bennett v City of New York*, 11-1929. *Bunche v the City of New York*, 10-cv-5731. *Morrow v NYC* et al 11- 03054 *George v NYC* et al 10-cv-02407 *Morrow v NYC* et al; 11-03054 *Butta et al v NYC*, 11-cv-02843, *Hewitt v NYC* et al 09-00214, *Goodwin v NYC* 04-01482,, *Olushesi v NYC* et al 09- 01754, *Patterson v NYC* 10-00231, *Johnson, v NYC* et al 10-02407, *Canlo v NYC* 11-00052, *Bennett v NYC*, et al 11-cv-01929, , *Hosang v NYC*, et al 12-00751, *Tung v NYC*, 08-00181, *Green v NYC* et al 09-01825, *Whittaker v NYC* et al 08-03209, *Mangal & Burton v NYC*, 07-3777, *Knox v NYC* et al 00-00027, and *Kelly v NYC* et al al 10-08438 This is a total of 36 separate actions. P.O. Vincent Orsini has ben sued in at least 16 separate lawsuits.

55. With respect to the individually named defendant, JOHN FAHIM, the defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK had notice of the following actions brought in the US District Courts

for the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. The defendant the CITY OF NEW YORK had actual notice of all these actions and those set forth in the preceding paragraphs since its Law Department and Corporation Counsel filed notices of appearance in all these actions and represented the defendants and or settled all of same:

AS TO DEFENDANT JOHN FAHIM All of these actions were venued in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Settled were the matters of Pringle v the City of New York 12-cv- 00521, Hines v the City of New York, 12-cv- 03687 and Humpreys v the City of New York 12-cv-2299; pending are the cases of Duncan v the City of New York 12-cv- 01565 and Akoto v the City of New York 13-cv- 01189.

56. Despite the foregoing, the City of New York exercised deliberate indifference to the aforementioned abuses against civilians such as the plaintiffs by failing to take remedial action. The City failed to properly train, retain supervise discipline and monitor the defendants ad other members of the service guilty of similar abuses. Upon information and belief, the officers involved in these and other similar matters have been the subject of numerous CCRB and IAB complaints which the City has failed to properly investigate and or deliberately ignored.

57. The City's failure to act resulted in a violation of the plaintiff's constitutional rights

58. At all times material to this complaint, defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK had de facto policies, practices, customs and usages which were a direct and proximate cause of the unconstitutional conduct alleged herein.

59. At all times material to this complaint, defendant THE CITY OF NEW YORK failed to properly train, screen, supervise, or discipline employees and police officers, and failed to inform the individual defendants' supervisors of their need to train, screen, supervise or discipline the individually named defendants . The policies, practices, customs, and usages were a direct and proximate cause of the unconstitutional conduct alleged herein, causing injury and damage in violation of plaintiff's constitutional rights as guaranteed under 42 U.S.C. § 1983

and the United States Constitution, including its Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments.

60. All of the foregoing acts by defendants deprived plaintiff of federally protected constitutional rights, including but not limited to the right to:

Not to be denied liberty without due process of law

To not be subjected to false arrest and imprisonment.

To be free from the use of excessive force, assault and summary punishment

To have other officers intervene when a police officer abuses a civilian

To be free from malicious prosecution.

To be free from malicious abuse of process.

61. As a result of the foregoing, plaintiff was deprived of liberty, suffered emotional injury, pain and suffering, great humiliation, costs and expenses, and was otherwise damaged and injured.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff respectfully preys to the court for judgment upon each cause of action as follows:

a. Compensatory damages in an amount which this Court shall consider to be just and fair:

b. Punitive and exemplary damages in an amount which this Court shall consider to be just & fair;

c. Attorney's fees in an amount which this Court shall consider just & fair;

d. Together with the costs and disbursements of this action and such other and further relief which this Court may seem just & proper.

DATED: BROOKLYN, NY

November 9, 2014.

This is an electronic signature

-----/s/-----

MICHAEL COLIHAN (MC-0826)

Attorney for the Plaintiff

44 Court Street

Suite 906

Brooklyn, NY 11201

(718) 488-7788

